



## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**Comment Request:** Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Jurisdictional Survey

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 USC U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), and as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, the National Science Foundation invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this information collection. This is the **second notice** for public comment; the first was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER at 75 FR 66167 and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice. The full submission may be found at:  
<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>.

**DATES:** Comments regarding these information collections are best assured of having their full effect if received by OMB within 30 days of publication in the Federal Register.

**ADDRESS:** Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 295, Arlington, VA 22230, or by e-mail to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov). Copies of the submission may be obtained by calling (703) 292-7556.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Contact Suzanne Plimpton, the NSF Reports Clearance Officer, phone (703) 292-7556, or send e-mail to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the

collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Collection:* Experimental Program to Stimulate  
Competitive Research Jurisdictional Survey

Evaluation for the National Science Foundation

*OMB Number:* 3145-NEW.

*Type of request:* Initial Clearance.

*Abstract:*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Act of 1950 (Public Law 507-81st Congress, as amended) stated that ". . . it shall be an objective of the Foundation to strengthen science and engineering research potential and education at all levels throughout the United States; and avoid undue concentration of such research and education, respectively." This Congressional directive recognized the inherent value of a truly national scientific and engineering (S&E) research enterprise. Over time, however, the nation's S&E efforts became concentrated geographically, focusing primarily on a limited number of major research universities. The NSF's resources became concentrated to the point where in 1977, in response to congressional

concerns; the National Science Board established a task force to examine the geographical distribution of NSF awards. The issue was discussed at the 195th meeting of the NSB. Approval was requested for initiation of a program designed to "stimulate competitive research in regions of the country that were less able to compete successfully for research funds." In 1978 the NSB approved a resolution (NSB-78-12) establishing the *Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)* and the general guidelines for its management.

The mission of EPSCoR is to assist the National Science Foundation in its statutory function "to strengthen research and education in science and engineering throughout the United States and to avoid undue concentration of such research and education."

The EPSCoR goals are to: 1) provide strategic programs and opportunities for EPSCoR participants that stimulate sustainable improvements in their R&D capacity and competitiveness; and 2) advance science and engineering capabilities in EPSCoR jurisdictions for discovery, innovation, and overall knowledge-based prosperity.

The EPSCoR objectives are to: 1) catalyze key research themes and related activities within and among EPSCoR jurisdictions that empower knowledge generation, dissemination

and application; 2) activate effective jurisdictional and regional collaborations among academic, government and private sector stakeholders that advance scientific research, promote innovation and provide multiple societal benefits; 3) broaden participation in science and engineering by institutions, organizations and people within and among EPSCoR jurisdictions; and 4) use EPSCoR for development, implementation and evaluation of future programmatic experiments that motivate positive change and progression.

#### **Expected Respondents.**

The respondents will be current and former EPSCoR awardees based at academic; state and local governments; and non-profit organizations. Quantitative procedures will be fielded using web-based modes. Up to 200 EPSCoR awardees will be contacted to request their participation in the survey. As needed, each EPSCoR awardee will be contacted with reminders to complete the survey no more than twice during the survey's duration under this generic clearance. Technology will be heavily utilized to limit the burden on respondents.

#### **Use of the Information.**

The purpose of this survey of EPSCoR awardees is to better understand outcomes of NSF EPSCoR-related investments. The data

will be used internally to inform NSF as it considers future improvements to the EPSCoR program, and to gain a better understanding regarding the program's impact on associated research and education activities. Findings may be presented externally to Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in technical papers at conferences, published in the proceedings of conferences, or in journals.

**BURDEN ON THE PUBLIC:**

Number of Respondents: 87

Average Number of Hour Per Response: 30

Overall Burden Request (in hours): 2639

**COMMENTS:** Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including

through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

August 6, 2012

Suzanne H. Plimpton,  
Reports Clearance Officer,  
National Science Foundation.

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